Princess Anne Middle School

***2015-2016 Class Expectations***

***Teacher:*** Kimberly Piper  ***Course:*** Physical Science

***School Telephone Number***: 648-4950 ***Email address***: Kimberly.piper@vbschools.com

[**http://pams-piper.wikispaces.com**](http://pams-piper.wikispaces.com)

[**https://www.edmodo.com**](https://www.edmodo.com)each Edmodo class has their own code for access. Parents are welcome to join and monitor your student’s work.

**Course Description**: Physical Science 8 is a comprehensive general science course emphasizing relevant, laboratory-oriented activities integrating current scientific thought. It covers two quarters of chemistry and two of physics. Independent research activities are also included in the course.

**Course Objectives:** The course covers all Virginia Standards of Learning objectives in detail. It also encompasses the Virginia Beach City Public School’s objectives, which correlate to the SOL’s. The SOL’s can be found at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/testing/index.shtml> . The content of the course is based on these two guidelines.

# Course Scope and Sequence:

**First Semester**

**Second Semester**

Unit 5 Atoms, Elements, and the Periodic Table

Unit 6 Nature of Matter

Unit 7 Changes in Matter

SOL Resources

# Introduction to Physical Science, Scientific Method, and Measurement

Unit 1 Energy and Heat Transfer

Unit 2 Wave Energy, Sound, Light, and the Electromagnetic Spectrum

Unit 3 Work, Force, and Motion

Unit 4 Electricity and Magnetism

**Texts and Materials**: Physical Science (Holt). Please note that I will be handing out online textbook log-in information and passwords. This is also on my Wiki space. Students will be shown how to access this tool, although most already know how to use this. Students will have the opportunity to acquire the relevant information either with notes in class or a teacher made video as a homework assignment. Due to the type of instruction students will be engaged in, they are required to keep a science notebook/binder that should be brought to class daily. The online text book should be used as a reference tool when needed to look something up or to clarify information.

**Mastery learning and Grading: A grade is a communication about how your student is mastering a learning target.** Students will be graded upon set standards and objectives. Grades are not compensation for points earned but are instead used as a communication tool. What does this mean? The letter/number assigned to the task will allow you/your child to know if they are grasping the concept fully or if they still need to work on it. Final grades are determined by our professional opinion of your child’s work against the standards for Physical Science, not by mathematical calculations. We will convert the 4 point scale to the VBCPS Board approved grading scale. Students will be evaluated through tests, quizzes, class work, labs, projects, and critical thinking tasks. Please keep in mind that mastery of every concept is the goal and students have as many chances to achieve mastery as needed.

**Grading Procedures and Policies:**

4 = A Advanced proficient – consistently demonstrates proficiency; grasps, applies, and extends key concepts, processes and skills.

3 = B Proficient – regularly grasps and applies key concepts, processes, and skills with limited errors.

2 = C Developing Proficiency – beginning to grasp and apply key concepts, processes, and skills

1 = D Novice – needs improvement; not making expected progress toward proficiency

0 = E No progress is evaluated.

**Parent Portal:** If you have not done so already, please sign up for “Parent Portal” on the school’s website to be able to access your child’s grades at any point during the year. This is a great tool for students to monitor their own progress as well as check for the accuracy of their grades.

**My School Mail:** Please sign up for ‘My School Mail’ on the school’s website. This will provide you with a daily email for your student’s homework and other important information. You can also sign up here for sporting even reminders, PTA newsletters and other valuable resources.

**Help Sessions**: PAMS offers a variety of free tutoring opportunities before and after school. I am also available before school by appointment.

**Procedures for conferences, parental contacts:** If you would like to request a conference, please contact guidance. I encourage you to email me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Citizenship Expectations:**  Rules for the classroom are as follows: come prepared, be respectful to others at all times, and follow the rules under the code of conduct.

**Supplies**: 3-5 subject notebook, journal, dry erase marker(s), colored pencils, glue sticks, pencil, pen, highlighter

# Please email or print the following page to verify your receipt of this information.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8TH GRADE**

**I have reviewed these expectations with my child. I will support the teacher in the delivery of instruction and the enforcement of acceptable classroom behavior.**

**Parent/guardian name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cell phone) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/guardian signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**